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Thursday, November 1, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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Dutch Second House of Chamber lauds Aruba's progress



Minister Liesbeth Spies

ORANJESTAD -- During the recent deliberations on the budget of Dutch Kingdom relations in the Second House of Chamber, the different speakers of the Chamber fractions lauded the positive progress noted on Aruba.

On the other hand there was grave concern for the financial and administrative problems on Curacao.

House speaker Madeleine van Toorenburg (CDA) remarked: "My fraction wants to dedicate words of praise to Aruba. The cooperation we have with Aruba is very positive; particularly the economic cooperation is what makes such a big difference."

She continued to remark that, with respect to CDA, together we must do our utmost to recompense Aruba's perseverance and to help Aruba become even stronger. We need to re-enforce countries that are helping themselves and are pressing firmly forward, according to van Toorenburg.

Andre Bosman of the VVD political party also had comments of praise for Aruba. Wassila Hachchi of the D66 expressed that he can support the vision of the Aruba government with respect to a strategic partnership so as to make optimum

use of the added value of the

Dutch Kingdom.

According to Bosman, precisely because of our diversity we have so much to offer each other. He said it is important to reach out to the extended hand of Aruba, and give a good example. If Holland and Aruba take the initiative, we can benefit greatly from being part of the Kingdom. In so doing we can accomplish much. Let us at least start with Aruba, with the hope that the other islands will also unite with us, says Bosman.

Minister Spies also added her comments saying, among other things, that the relation-



Andre Bosman - VVD

ship with Aruba is good and well developed to see how we can best help each other

Continued on page 4



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UNESCO holds interesting workshop on immaterial cultural heritage



ORANJESTAD -- The UNESCO organization Recently held an interesting workshop in Aruba dealing with the subject of "Policy formulation for the protection of immaterial cultural heritage."

UNESCO Secretary General in Aruba, Jimmy Oduber introduced the workshop facilitator, Fernando Brugman, who works in the UNESCO office dedicated to cultural matters of the Caribbean and Latin America in Havana, Cuba. Brugman reminded the workshop participants that he was in Aruba about one and a half years ago in connection with the Aruba government's nomination to UNESCO of declaring

"Dande" a world cultural immaterial heritage.

Because Aruba falls under the Dutch Kingdom and Holland at that time had not yet ratified that agreement, it was impossible for UNESCO to have acted on the nomination. In the mean time, Holland has ratified the agreement, hence Brugman has returned to offer the workshop. This workshop has been financed by Norway and is intended to establish a policy and strategy for preparing an inventory of and a means for identifying immaterial heritage.

Brugman explained how important this project is and that it is also being conducted

in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. He emphasized the importance of culture in the development of a people. He asserted that it has been proven that developmental plans which do not include culture in their models do not succeed.

Aruba's Minister of Education, Arthur Dowers, was also in attendance at the workshop and offered his comments. Dowers indicated that all intentions to preserve immaterial cultural heritage is extremely interesting and moves people to think about what is actually the reality and all the issues which connect people to each other.

Dowers recounted a personal experience he had on a trip to Trinidad where he was given a CD with "Parang" music. That CD took his mind back to his school days and his conversations with older people who told about the music and tradition of Parang. Parang was a part of tradition which in great measure was a custom of those people who came from the English speaking islands with their culture. This tradition fortified the connection between the people, families and friends.

Minister Dowers also indicated that education must play a much greater role in transmitting our cultural immaterial heritage. He was pleased to see so many persons working in education at the workshop. He wished all a productive and successful workshop and expressed the desire to see the results of the work and information forthcoming from the workshop. The workshop, reportedly, was a real success and much relevant and important information was disseminated.



Fernando Brugman



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Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of friends, as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. William and Mrs. Allison Bray from Staffordville, NY and their dear friend Mrs. Jacqueline Goodrich from Fairhaven, Ma.

The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Gloria Defoe, Ms. Hilda Mills and Mr. Gerrit Griffith GM at the Divi Village.

Inaugural KLM/Air France Airbus 330-220 arrives on Aruba



Max Smits, Peter Steinmetz, Danilo de Freitas, and Raymond Reedijk

It was announced earlier this year that regular KLM service from Amsterdam would upgrade their plane from the MD-11 to the more efficient Airbus 330-230. On Tuesday afternoon, October 30, Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber and the CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, joined Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Stein-

metz to officially welcome the new "Flying Dutchman" to Aruba.

Present in the VIP room for the arrival were KLM General Manager and KLM Commercial Director (CUR/DC) for the Dutch Caribbean Area, Suriname & Guyana, Max Smits and Raymond Reedijk along with Sales Manager for Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, Danilo de Freitas.

Airport personnel and media watched the plan land and taxi to the gate via a new system also inaugurated by AAA on Tuesday, closed circuit video, which also provides security



KLM, ATA and Airport teams

for the airside of the airport.

The arrival of the airbus heralded the new winter schedule of the KL 765 flights, which will arrive on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5.25 PM. The flight will depart from Amsterdam via Bonaire at 6:40 PM. On Wednesday and Friday, KL 767 will operate at the same hours, totally 5 flights weekly between Aruba and Amsterdam.

Mr. Smits was invited to the podium after a personal welcome from Minister Oduber. "On behalf of KLM I would like to thank the minister and all of you for sharing yet another milestone in KLM and Aruba's history," he told the

gathering.

"Without the solid and efficient relation with the Aruban government, authorities, our local business relations, trade partners and loyal passengers, this would not have been pos-

sible...Air France/KLM is committed to contributing to the success of the Aruban tourism industry. We are looking forward to doing so for many more years to come!"

Rosalie Klein



KLM Airbus lands

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6PM **DUTCH & ARUBAN GROUP SHOW**
ALLAN VOS (HOLLAND)
EDWIN OUDSHOORN (HOLLAND)
ELISA LEJUEZ (ARUBA)
GIGLIOLA DESIGNS (ARUBA)
PURE BEACH AT DIVI ARUBA PHOENIX BEACH RESORT

7:30PM **CAFFE SWIMWEAR (COLOMBIA)**
POOL DECK AT DIVI ARUBA PHOENIX BEACH RESORT

8PM **ARUBIANAS BY EVA ZISSU (VENEZUELA)**
FEATURING RAY 4DJ
POOL DECK AT DIVI ARUBA PHOENIX BEACH RESORT

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POKO PANO (BRAZIL)
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TIERRA DEL SOL

10PM **CHARLOTTE RONSON (USA)**
FEATURING DJ MICKEY FENTROSS
TIERRA DEL SOL

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8PM **ARUBA IN STYLE CLOSING PARTY**
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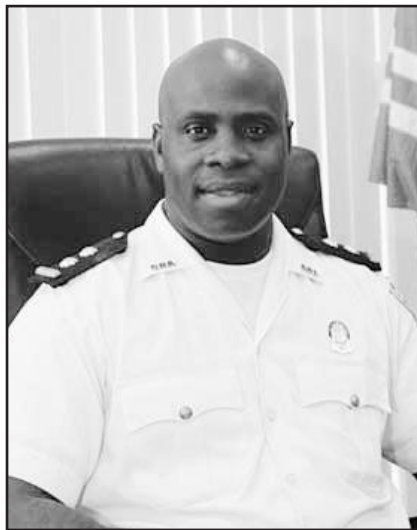
DIARIO

Aruba Police looks back on a successful weekend

In a recent press conference, Aruba's Chief of Police, Dolfi Richardson, reported that he was extremely pleased with the manner in which the police force was able to reduce incidents around the Halloween celebrations around the island. Although the weekend was replete with youth festivities during the past weekend, the number of serious incidents this year was remarkably lower than that of previous years.

During the past Halloween weekend, the Police force was visibly present on our streets. According to Police Chief Richardson; the weekend actions was part of their strategy and consistent policy to ensure that there is extra police vigilance on busy days.

Richardson also indicated that the fact that they now have more and better material to work with, such as new vehicles has contributed to more police presence and that they can get to where assistance is



Dolfi Richardson

needed much more rapidly. They also succeeded in recruiting more police so that they now have more agents in the patrol department. This made it possible to shift existing officers to several new departments.

Hence, during the past weekend they made good use of Police on Foot patrol, who

use specially trained dogs to act in public disturbances. Then, the motorized police team exercised preventive control and repressive action in cases where motorists were misbehaving.

Police action for fights and drunkenness was notably less. People were aware that the police was on heavy alert and their chances for being reprimanded was great, hence the improved behavior and conduct at the different Halloween events.

Police could have been seen at strategic sites near road sides observing the traffic. Police Chief, Richardson said that for him it was important to highlight the good work of the police during the past weekend, because often when there are negative incidents all eyes are on the police. Hence, when things are good it is important to give credit to those who work throughout the night until morning so that the community can rest easy.

Only at Trop Casino

Check out famous Monster Trucks and win tickets to see Return of the Monster Trucks!



Today, Thursday, November 1st, Trop Casino will be hosting the famous monster trucks that are here on the island for the Return of the Monster Trucks event, organized by The Brute Racing.

Everyone is invited to visit the Trop Casino parking lot this afternoon until this evening to get up close and personal with famous monster trucks including Bigfoot, The Avenger, Star Marshal and Brutus, as well as

their drivers, who will be signing posters for fans.

Trop Casino is also giving away 15 double passes to experience the sold-out Return of the Monster Trucks show on Saturday, November 3rd, at the Don Elias Mansur Sport Park. To win your tickets to the exciting event, try your luck inside Trop Casino by playing the slot machines or table games with your Trop Advantage Card. For every 25 points that you accumulate, you'll receive an electronic raffle ticket and automatically be entered to win your tickets to the monster truck show. Drawings will take place today, November 1st, at 8:00 pm, 9:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Winners must be present at Trop Casino with a valid ID to claim their prize.

Incoming Dutch government scraps plans for touristweed ban

THE HAGUE -- The incoming Dutch government has ditched plans for a national "weed pass" that would have been available only to residents and that would have effectively banned tourists from Amsterdam's marijuana cafes.

However, under a provisional governing pact unveiled this week, cities can bar fo-

reigners from weed shops if they choose.

The pact says that it wants only Dutch residents to have access to marijuana cafes, but leaves enforcement up to cities. Amsterdam opposes a ban, which would hurt tourism.

Some cafe owners said on Tuesday that they are satisfied

Dutch weed policy will remain unchanged, while others criticised the lack of clarity.

Pot is technically illegal in The Netherlands, but a policy of tolerance to personal possession and sale of small amounts of cannabis has made Amsterdam synonymous with weed tourism.





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As of November 1st ELMAR N.V. to reduce electricity tariff

ORANJESTAD -- After many negotiations and internal efforts to be able to manage the company in a more efficient way, N.V. ELMAR is proud to announce that starting November they are reducing their tariffs substantially. Many years has passed since N.V. ELMAR were able to reduce their electricity tariffs and especially in these times when everywhere utility prices are on the rise each day.

To manage a price reduction different electricity production aspects had to be taken into consideration. This is in the hands of WEB N.V. who also did their utmost to operate more efficiently and reduce their production costs. Besides making changes internally, ELMAR also did a refinancing of their debts to achieve a more efficient operation.

Here is an example of how the client will be paying less every month on their electricity bill.

Before November 1st a



client with a monthly consumption of 750 kwh paid Afl. 376.13. As of November 1st the client will pay for this same consumption of 750 kwh, Afl. 317.75, a reduction of Afl. 58.38 per month!

ELMAR is also asking the community to be a little more conscious in their consumption of electricity by not wasting it!

One can also save by making the necessary changes in their AC system, lights, fridges etc.

To make your own calculation visit ELMAR's website: www.elmar.aw

Dutch Second House of Chamber ...

Continued from page 1



Wassila Hachchi - D66

She reported that in June she spoke extensively with Prime Minister Eman concerning the matter of cooperation. Spies is much more in favor of working less with commissions and to simply put things into immediate action.



Madeleine van Toorenburg

There was a vote in the house to urge Holland to, in the coming years, deliberate with her partners on the matter of a possible cooperation and to stimulate and promote cooperation within the Kingdom.



President Barack Obama is greeted by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie upon his arrival at Atlantic City International Airport, in Atlantic City, NJ.



Vladimir Gindin carries his dog Bobby while searching for his car in the aftermath of floods from Hurricane Sandy in the Coney Island section of the Brooklyn borough of New York.

New York reemerges from Sandy's wreckage

NEW YORK (AFP) - Storm-battered New York got slowly back on its feet yesterday with Wall Street and the city's airports getting up and running after a powerful storm that left more than 50 Americans dead.

Just six days before America goes to the polls, President Barack Obama came to survey the damage in neighboring New Jersey, where tens of thousands of homes are under water and millions of families without power.

While much of New York and many more towns along the US east coast remains paralyzed following Monday's onslaught by cyclone Sandy, some key businesses like the stock exchange got back to work.

John F. Kennedy and Newark Liberty airports made a limited reopening, although LaGuardia was still shut. At last count, 19,500 flights had been cancelled because of Sandy, tracking service flightaware.com said.

Buses were back on New York city streets and Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that limited subway services would resume today, despite many of the tunnels still being inundated by corrosive seawater.

Cuomo said there would be "limited commuter rail service on Metro North and on the Long Island Railroad."

But large sections of New York, including many skyscrapers in lower Manhattan, remained without electricity, and schools throughout the city were shuttered for a third straight day.

About 10,000 National Guard troops deployed to storm-hit states to help local authorities rescue stranded survivors, remove debris, direct traffic and assess the damage from the air, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The head of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick, traveled to New York to look at how the corps could bolster efforts to restore power and clear water from flooded tunnels and electric substations.

While National Guard trucks rolled through the flooded streets of New Jersey, troops offered help along a main highway in the mountains of West Virginia, where the massive storm dumped a blanket of snow.

Army engineers stood ready to provide pumps and generators as needed while the US Navy sent out three amphibious ships off the New Jersey coast in case state governments requested aid for rescue operations.

It was clear that the cleanup and healing process would take much time.

Obama promises storm victims help for 'long haul'

BRIGANTINE, New Jersey (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday promised New Jersey residents reeling from superstorm Sandy that the government would support them "for the long haul."

"You guys are in my thoughts and prayers. We are going to be here for the long haul," Obama said during a visit to an emergency shelter in Brigantine, not far from Atlantic City, with New Jersey governor Chris Christie.

"Obviously, the top priority right now is to get the power back on... then obviously there is going to be some clean-up and there are going to be some expenses," said the Democratic incumbent, six days before the US election.

"We're going to not tolerate any red tape. We're not going to tolerate any bureaucracy. We're going to make sure that we get the help to you as quickly as we can."

Obama, who was traveling with the federal government's emergency relief director Craig Fugate, linked up with Christie, New Jersey's Republican governor, for the tour of the hard-hit state.

Christie, an outspoken ally of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, has been effusive in his praise of Obama's handling of the devastating storm, raising eyebrows in his own party.

He thanked Obama for his "important" visit yesterday.

"It's really important to have the president of the United States acknowledge all the suffering that's going on here in New Jersey and I appreciate it very much," Christie said.

"We're going to work together to make sure we get ourselves through this crisis and get everything back to normal. Thank you for coming, sir."

Earlier, the governor greeted the president at the steps of Air Force One after his short flight from Washington and the two men boarded Obama's Marine One helicopter for an aerial tour of the disaster area.

Doctor: Sandy as bad as 9/11 for New York hospitals

NEW YORK (AFP) - With power outages and emergency evacuations of seriously ill patients in hurricane-strength winds, New York hospitals faced their biggest challenge this week since the September 11, 2001 attacks, according to a senior doctor.

Institutions including New York University Hospital and another in Coney Island were forced into patient evacuations after flooding and loss of electricity in superstorm Sandy on Monday and Tuesday.

Bellevue Hospital, the oldest in the country, evacuated its 500 patients yesterday, officials said.

"This is perhaps the most complicated situation that New York has seen in 30 years," Carlos Cordon-Cardo, head of the pathology department at Mount Sinai Medical Center, said.

"I was here on September 11 and I was more involved than I'd have liked to be. On 9/11 there were people with lung problems, some poisoning, but there were not people who were very sick or with urgent medical needs because unfortunately we lost many people. This time it was a medical emergency in the real sense," he said.

Mount Sinai, which is in the unscathed upper Manhattan area, took in 64 patients from

NYU Hospital on Monday evening in the middle of the storm. Overall, NYU Hospital transferred 300 patients to safer facilities.

"There was a major need for transferring very critical patients. We had a relatively short window to work in. Although the weather was very poor it wasn't such a strong wind that the ambulances would be damaged," he said.

"We had a very sick patient arrive without his electronic records, only a few half-soaked papers," he recalled. Many of the 650 staff on his team slept in the hospital that night.

"It was emotional and extraordinary to see how a whole group of professionals worked together in a harmonious way, without sleeping or sleeping on top of conference tables, or in cars that had been left in the garage."

Even after the storm, the situation remained complex for hospitals.

Coney Island Hospital had a more difficult task after storm damage, Evelyn Hernandez, a spokeswoman for New York public hospitals said.

It had to transfer about 200 patients, some of them to other hospitals and the less sick back to their homes.

Cordon-Cardo said that worse was avoided by good preparation.

Space shuttle Enterprise damaged by Sandy



Photo shows Space shuttle Enterprise after Hurricane Sandy at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York. The shuttle's protective shelter has collapsed and the orbiter has incurred some damage. The shuttle is usually enclosed in the Space Shuttle Pavilion, a structure on the deck of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. Museum President Susan Marenoff-Zausner said unprecedented levels of water on the Hudson River flooded both the museum's main power source and backup generators Monday. Marenoff-Zausner stated rebuilding will begin when it's safe enough to work, but that the museum is closed for now. The shuttle Enterprise itself was draped in protective cloth.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Argentina arrests Colombian drug kingpin

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - One of Colombia's most notorious drug kingpins has been arrested in a suburb of Buenos Aires and could be extradited to the United States, Argentina authorities said yesterday.

Henry de Jesus Lopez Londono, a leader of the Los Urabenos cartel, was taken into custody on an international arrest warrant late Tuesday at a restaurant in the town of Pilar, some 50 kilometers north of Buenos Aires, where he was dining with his bodyguards, said a police source who requested anonymity.

Lopez Londono "is subject to a US capture order. One of the possibilities is his extradition to the United States," Ser-

gio Berni, Argentina's deputy security minister, said at a news conference.

The head of Bogota's national police force, Jose Roberto Leon, told Caracol radio that Lopez Londono was wanted by Colombia on various charges including terrorism and drug trafficking.

He said an arrest warrant on drug trafficking charges had also been issued by a Florida court for Lopez Londono, who went by the nickname "Mi Sangre."

The Colombian police chief added that the arrest was the result of an operation headed by President Juan Manuel Santo, in consultation with Argentine President Cristina Kirchner.



A huge unexploded World War II bomb was found at a construction site near the runway of Sendai Airport, one of Japan's busiest regional airports. A worker rebuilding drainage systems at Sendai Airport -- which was swamped by last year's tsunami -- on Monday uncovered the 500-pound (225-kilogramme) bomb, believed to have been dropped by US forces.

Spain dismantles human trafficking ring

BARCELONA (AFP) - Spanish police said yesterday they had smashed a human trafficking ring in Barcelona, arresting 18 people suspected of smuggling around 1,000 Pakistanis every year into the European Union.

Officers have "dismantled a criminal organisation dedicated to the trafficking of illegal immigrants of Pakistani nationality," local police said in a statement.

The victims had paid between 600 and 15,000 euros (\$800 and \$20,000) each to be smuggled into Barcelona and other European cities, local police said in a statement, adding that the network had operated

for at least seven years.

The travel was always carried out "on roads in trucks and vans crammed with up to 25 people" under conditions "that often put their health and safety at risk," the police said.

They added that the vehicles entered Europe's borderless Schengen area by passing through Greek customs control.

Among the 18 people arrested in Pakistan and several European countries during the police operation last week were three leaders of the Barcelona-based ring, which belonged to a larger network in Pakistan that smuggled people into Spain, France, Italy and Germany.

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Rising waters flood Venice

ROME (AFP) - Floodwaters drenched Venice's St. Mark's Square yesterday as the City of Bridges was put on "acqua alta" (high water) alert and tourists donned their water-proofs and wellies.

The mayor ordered elevated wooden platforms to be placed on main passageways in the Renaissance city as the waters reached 110 centimeters (43 inches) by late afternoon, and were set to rise to 140 centimeters overnight.

The flooding was caused by wind and rain combined with the lagoon city's periodic tidal phenomenon, a monitoring and forecasting centre said.

The city has for years been wrestling with the problems posed by the threat of rising sea levels and has launched an ambitious plan to build mobile barriers at the mouth of its lagoon and protect the city.

About 3,000 people are involved in the "Moses" project, which costs 5.4 billion euros

(\$7.9 billion), and is scheduled for completion in 2014.

Bad weather struck across Italy yesterday, whipping up the sea and causing problems for people trying to travel from the mainland to the islands.

Elementary and primary

schools were closed as a precautionary measure in some areas of Sicily, while in Tuscany around 50 people were evacuated from an area which was hit hard by flooding in 2011.



A New York Halloween parade participants smokes a cigarette in New York. Revelers across the country celebrated Halloween yesterday, the day before the Christian tradition of All Saints' Day which honors the dead.

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Health & Living

Yellow fever kills 32 in Sudan's Darfur

KHARTOUM, Sudan, (AFP) - Mosquito-borne yellow fever has killed 32 people in Sudan's conflict-plagued Darfur region this month, the health ministry said in a statement obtained by AFP on Wednesday.

"According to laboratory results, people are affected by yellow fever. The total number affected in the two states is 84, 32 of whom died," the statement said, referring to outbreaks in Central and South Darfur.

The October 30 statement said a vaccination campaign is being prepared.

In the meantime, the ministry has sent blood supplies and medicines to the area, and has a plan to fight mosquitos, it said.

The UN's World Health Organisation said the ministry notified it of the outbreak in the districts of Azoom, Kass, Mershing, Nertiti, Nyala, Wadi Salih and Zalingei.

"The federal Ministry of Health, WHO and other health partners are working on the ground to ensure timely containment of the outbreak," a statement said.

There is no specific treatment for the viral illness found in tropical regions of Africa but it can be contained through the use of bed nets, insect repellents and long clothing.

A 2005 outbreak of the disease in Sudan's South Kordofan state caused 163 deaths out of 604 cases over about five months.

In January 2011, 35 people died from yellow fever in Ivory Coast, WHO said.

China think-tank calls for end to one-child policy

BEIJING (AFP) - China should phase out its unpopular one-child policy and let families have two children by 2015, an influential think-tank with close links to the government has proposed.

The suggestion comes from the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF), adding to growing calls for a relaxation of a policy first introduced over 30 years ago.

It would see the world's most populous country eventually abandon a measure that has been blamed for creating a

demographic timebomb, with an ageing population fore-shadowing huge economic and social problems.

The policy has also fostered a gender imbalance.

"Problems in population structure, quality and distribution have become increasingly visible and will have a profound impact on China's future social and economic development," the CDRF said in a report, according to a Xinhua news agency dispatch late Tuesday.

"China has paid a huge po-

litical and social cost for the policy, as it has resulted in social conflict, high administrative costs and led indirectly to a long-term gender imbalance at birth."

The report calls for family planning to be "loosened" in those provinces with stricter controls -- which are commonly urban areas -- allowing families nationwide to have two children instead of one by 2015.

All restrictions should be lifted by 2020 "as people will make more rational decisions

on birth issues", the CDRF said.

The southern province of Guangdong asked Beijing in July for permission to relax the policy and allow couples where just one parent is an only child to have a second baby.

But the plan was dropped when Zhang Feng, director of the province's population and family planning commission, said there would be "no major adjustments to the family planning policy within five years".

Family planning officials in

Beijing have defended the one-child policy in the past, claiming China's population -- currently 1.3 billion -- would have hit 1.7 billion without it.



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Sci-Tech

Instagram grabs spotlight for US storm pictures



North Carolina 12 is buckled from pounding surf leading into Mirlo Beach in Rodanthe, N.C.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Instagram, the photo-sharing app recently acquired by Facebook, came into the limelight this week as a key source for pictures showing the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

Photos of the storm were popping up on many social networks including Twitter and

Google+, but Instagram data showed at least 521,000 photos with the hashtag Sandy.

Another 306,000 were tagged #hurricaneSandy and 39,000 tagged #Frankenstorm.

Jeff Sonderman, a digital media fellow at The Poynter Institute, said that at one point Instagram was posting 10 pic-

tures of the storm per second.

"Natural disasters and tragedies are emerging as a way for social media services to gain respect and legitimacy as world-changing agents as well," he said.

"You can see why a national disaster as told through Instagram could be powerful. In theory, Instagram has Twitter's immediacy, and a broader reach, since it pushes notices out via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram's own network, and email. Clearly images are the best way to tell a story like this, and Instagram's whole raison d'etre is to make people better photographers."

On Twitter, some 147,000 pictures were posted over a 24-hour period tagged Sandy.

Some of the pictures, however, were fakes. A Tumblr

page sought to keep track of the obvious and less-obvious bogus photos as "a public service."

One dramatic shot of the New York skyline was "actually a picture from 2011, of a thunderstorm over Manhattan during a tornado alert," said the

Tumblr blog author identified as @flashboy. Facebook completed its acquisition of Instagram in September. The original price was pegged at \$1 billion but the final value was less because of the decline in Facebook's share price.

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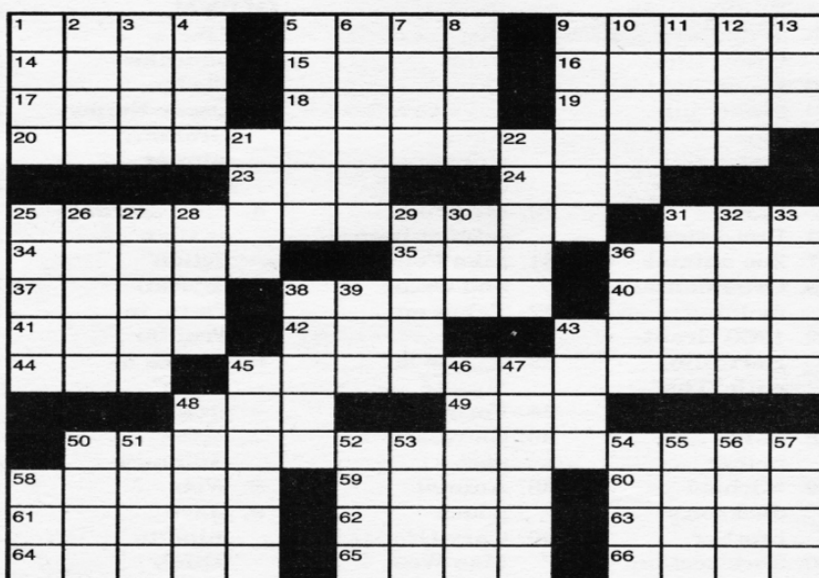
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ACROSS

1. Freshwater fish
5. "___ Wide Shut" (1999 film)
9. Monastery head
14. Shape of an egg
15. ___ a one (none)
16. Fierce look
17. Characteristic flavor of a wine
18. Sign of glee
19. "Shenandoah" star John
20. Pirate repositories
23. Mideast inits.
24. Though
25. Tangled mess
31. Mewer
34. The sky, at times
35. Hastened
36. Sparkly fabric
37. ___ plaisir
38. Simmers
40. Seed covering
41. Molly Maguire's workplace
42. Princess's mattress lump
43. Chophouse offering
44. Up in years
45. Its last prisoner was hope
48. Moral transgression
49. ___ elbows with
50. Expires, western-style
58. Art category
59. All the ___ (very popular)
60. Start a poker

DOWN

61. Say out loud
62. Inflexible
63. Dried up
64. Packs
65. Ballpoints
66. "Things are seldom what they ___"
1. Shopper's consideration
2. State strongly
3. Plaudit from a pundit
4. Allegation
5. Overwhelm
6. He sang with Stookey and Travers
7. Perry's 1812 headquarters
8. In ___ (perfectly coordinated)
9. Concurs
10. Great time, informally
11. Worm, perhaps
12. Scraps
13. Vietnamese holiday
21. Espy
22. Church songs
25. "Remember the ___"
26. Mannerly
27. Revise
28. Perfectly pleasant
29. Mountain nymph
30. Bitter
31. Locust bean
32. Acid group
33. Fax forerunner
36. Sci. rooms
38. Extends over
39. Half a score
43. Perfume name
45. Cheapskates



IT'S IN THERE

46. Mt. Hood's locale
47. "The Lionheart" artist
48. Thumb or cork ender
50. "Etta ___"
51. Lord's Prayer preposition
52. Journey
53. Mad as a March ___
54. Musical option other than LP or CD
55. ___-high to a grasshopper
56. To be, in Poree
57. Proliferate
58. Gloomy ___ of "Happy Hooligan"

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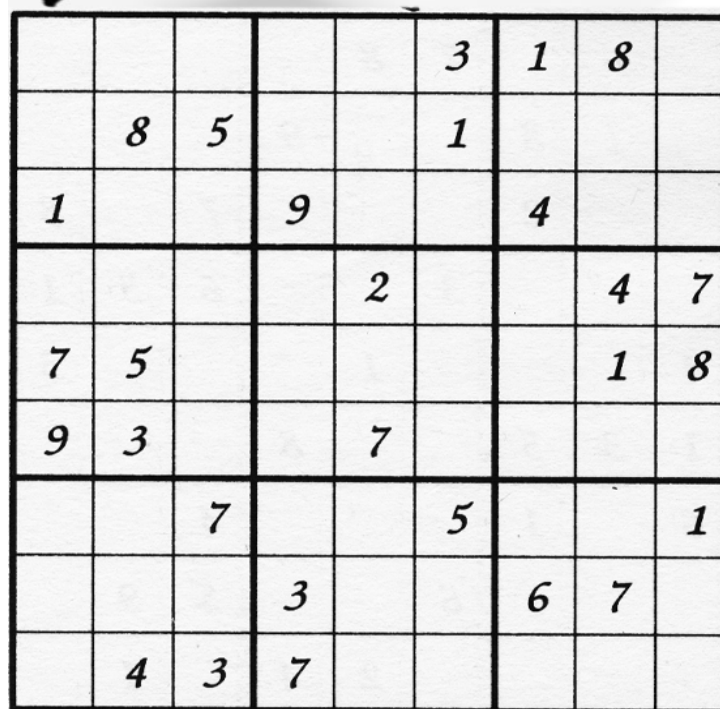
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	6	8	9	1	2	3	4	7
4	7	9	2	6	5	8	1	3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	9	5	8	1	4	6	3	7
8	1	6	4	9	2	5	7	3
7	4	6	2	3	1	9	8	5
6	2	1	9	4	5	8	3	7
9	8	1	5	2	6	4	7	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Brazil, Gulf states, Malaysia, Russia lose EU trade benefits

BRUSSELS (AFP) - A score of high-income nations such as Brazil, Russia and the Gulf states lost their privileged access to the EU's 500 million consumers yesterday as the bloc handed their benefits to poorer states.

Issuing a revised list of countries entitled to reduced- or zero-import tariff rates for the world's biggest consumer market, the EU's executive said that the "new scheme will be focused on fewer beneficiaries to ensure more impact on countries most in need."

Moving also to stop pumping aid into countries that fail to respect democratic values, the European Commission said there would be more support for those that respect human and labour rights, the environ-

ment and good governance rules.

The new system of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) will come into effect January 1, 2014, for 89 nations, 49 of which are listed as least developed countries.

Of these, 33 are in Africa, 10 in Asia, including Myanmar, five in the Pacific and Haiti in the Caribbean.

A further 40 "low and lower middle income" nations, including China, India, Iran, Iraq

and Syria, are also listed to benefit from the GSP scheme.

Removed are 20 nations listed for three years running by the World Bank as "high or upper middle income" economies.

These are very rich Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Macao and the five Gulf states, followed by upper-middle income nations Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Uruguay, Venezuela, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Gabon, Libya, Malaysia and Palau.

As US Struggles, Mexico's Economy Surges

In the last 17 years, the Mexican economy has become one of the world's most open and business growth has been steady despite the economic difficulties faced by the United States and Europe. If President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto can overcome one challenge that is stalling foreign investment, Mexico could see even more rapid economic growth over the next several years.

Mexico has so far weathered a global downturn better than many of the world's largest economies, and is on course to grow around twice as fast as Brazil this year.

Latin America's second-biggest economy grew 4.1 per-

cent in the second quarter, year-on-year. The finance ministry had already predicted growth would slow in the second half of 2012, as the European debt crisis undermines economic activity.

Overall, the Mexican economy is expected to grow by around 3.5 percent to 4.0 percent this year and next.

Mexico posted its biggest trade surplus in six months in September, though this was due to a drop in imports, rather than any increase in foreign demand.

Mexico depends heavily on demand from the United States, where it sends nearly 80 percent of its exports.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 10/31/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	191.47	192.19	192.99
Netherlands	EUR	229.32	231.41	233.74
Sweden	SEK	25.92	26.64	27.44
Denmark	DKK	30.06	30.78	31.58
Norway	NOK	30.37	31.09	31.89
Japan	JPY	220.97	222.98	225.22
(per 10,000)				
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Finance

Sandy could rank fifth-costliest hurricane in history



Hurricane Sandy appears to have easily caused more losses than last year's Hurricane Irene, but final totals will be hard to come by for some time because of the scale of the disaster, catastrophe forecasting companies said yesterday.

RMS, one of the three primary firms used by the insurance industry to calculate disaster exposures, indicated that Sandy should outdo the roughly \$4.5 billion in insured losses Irene caused after hit-

ting the northeast in August 2011.

Its assessment follows that of peer Eqecat, which said late Monday that Sandy was likely to cause anywhere from \$5 billion to \$10 billion in insured losses and from \$10 billion to \$20 billion in economic losses.

If Eqecat is correct, Sandy would rank as the fifth-worst hurricane in history, based on inflation-adjusted losses, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

CLASP COWS CUTS
LISLE OMIT UNIT
ENTER METEORITE
WERE FIN INSOLE
OPTIC ANT NEP
CONSUL SUSAN
ALA BEFOG PARTS
SLUG SABER GOAT
HATES CERES CPA
TUBER GASKET
CAP EAT LANCE
APHIDS POL ATNO
SPACESHIP ARMOR
ELSE EASE PEALE
DEED STAR EDNAS



The oil giant Rosneft could take over the Russian part of an oil joint venture with Venezuela. This marks another move by the ambitious state company that is set to become the world's market leader. TNK - BP, a company that will remain a Russian - British oil consortium for another couple of months, is in talks to sell its stake in the Venezuelan Junin-6 project to Rosneft, according to Jonathan Muir, TNK-BP's CFO.

Disney buys 'Star Wars' studio, plans 2015 new film



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Walt Disney Co announced Tuesday it is buying "Star Wars" director George Lucas's film company for \$4 billion, and plans to revive the classic sci-fi series starting with a new movie in 2015.

The entertainment giant plans a new trilogy in the legendary franchise, launched with the original "Star Wars" movie in 1977, while Lucas himself said it was "time for me to pass Star Wars on to a new generation of filmmakers."

"Star Wars 7" will be released in 2015, "with more feature films expected to con-

tinue the Star Wars saga and grow the franchise well into the future," said Disney, announcing the deal to buy pioneering movie company Lucasfilm.

In a conference call with investors, Disney said it planned a new trilogy with films eight and nine, after which more "Star Wars" movies would be made every two to three years.

The deal "combines a world-class portfolio of content including Star Wars, one of the greatest family entertainment franchises of all time, with Disney's unique and unparalleled creativity," said Disney chief Robert Iger.

"Lucasfilm reflects the extraordinary passion, vision, and storytelling of its founder, George Lucas," said Iger, head of global entertainment giant Disney, which is headquartered in Burbank, just outside Los Angeles.

The transaction is valued at \$4.05 billion -- based on current stock value -- with Disney paying about half in cash and issuing approximately 40 million shares at closing. Lucasfilm is 100 percent owned by Lucas.

Lucas, who runs his company from its San Francisco base, added: "For the past 35 years, one of my greatest pleasures has been to see Star Wars passed from one generation to the next.

The first "Star Wars" film came out in 1977, and there have been two trilogies -- three films from 1977-1983 and three prequels from 1999-2005 -- while the brand has expanded into theme parks and a huge merchandising arm.

The movies have earned some \$4.4 billion at the box office globally over the last 35 years, and offer "a virtually limitless universe of characters and stories to drive continued feature film releases," said Disney.

The acquisition comes after Disney's takeover of animated film giant Pixar and comic book character-driven Marvel Studios.

Those deals had "demonstrated the company's unique ability to fully develop and expand the financial potential of high quality creative content with compelling characters and storytelling," said Disney.

Lucas will be succeeded as head of Lucasfilm by his current co-chairman, Kathleen Kennedy, who will report to Walt Disney Studios Chairman Alan Horn, said the Disney statement.

Simian sex: Monkey seen, monkey doesn't



PARIS (AFP) - Monkeys are just like the vast majority of human beings when it comes to sex -- when they go ape, they want privacy. Among long-tailed macaques, the urge for hanky-panky was dampened when they were watched by other monkeys, according to an unusual experiment reported in the journal *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*. Scientists from the Biomedical Primate Research Centre in the Netherlands monitored 15 female and seven male macaques in a giant enclosure for four months. They installed everything for perfect love-making -- the simian equivalents of Barry White, satin sheets and mirrored ceilings. The monkeys had tyres and ladders for courting rituals, sawdust bedding, tasty offerings of fruit to replenish lost energy and even a swimming pool for chillout time. But the animals' main requirement was a quiet spot, to avoid interference from other monkeys, especially dominant alpha males. "By concealing sexual behaviour, females and subordinate males try to reduce harassment from group members," Anna Overduin-de Vries said in an email to AFP. "Although harassment is not frequent, it may have serious consequences such as getting injured or not being able to finish a copulation."



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Bolivia asks Sean Penn to help it get its coast back



LA PAZ (AFP) - Bolivia asked visiting Oscar-winner Sean Penn Tuesday to help lobby for La Paz to regain a bit of Pacific coast, and escape the ranks of landlocked states.

Evo Morales, the socialist president of the arid nation high in the Andes, asked the US actor to help its campaign to press Chile to overhaul treaties that ended a 19th-century war that cost Bolivia its coast and gave the land to Chile.

Being landlocked makes trade and transport difficult for Bolivia, already South America's poorest nation.

Foreign Minister David

Choquehuanca said Penn, known for his friendship with Morales ally President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, was a "militant for noble causes."

The diplomat urged Penn to be an "interlocutor with people involved in international politics to... help bring our demand, our proposal for a return to the sea to different venues."

It was Penn's second visit to Bolivia this year.

The United States and Bolivia have strained ties, and since 2008 have not had ambassadors in their respective capitals after La Paz accused Washington of meddling in its domestic politics.

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won

this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"—"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena —"Full

Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans hand homead-epotato-beet salad

choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Colombian rapper, peace activist is slain



BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombian rapper and peace activist "El Duke" was murdered Tuesday in his troubled Medellin neighborhood -- the seventh pacifist musician gunned down there

in two years, police said.

"El Duke," whose real name was Elider Varela, had spearheaded a program to try to get poor kids in the neighborhood, called Comuna 13, off the streets and away from drugs and crime.

"Comuna 13, I am there with you ... I am so sad about El Duke's murder," Grammy-winning rocker Juanes, who is from Medellin, said in a message on Twitter.

The rapper was gunned down as he strolled around his neighborhood, one of the many poor districts perched on the hillsides surrounding Medellin, his grieving widow told local media.

Pope prays for victims of Superstorm Sandy

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI sent his prayers on Wednesday to the victims of superstorm Sandy in the United States, and expressed solidarity with all those involved in repairing the damage.

The pope said he was "conscious of the devastation caused by the hurricane which recently struck the East Coast of the United States of America."

"I offer my prayers for the victims and express my solidarity with all those engaged in the work of rebuilding," the 85-year-old said at the end of his weekly general audience in Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican.

On Tuesday the death toll from the cyclone rose to 43 in North America, in addition to the 67 people killed as Sandy swept through the Caribbean as a hurricane last week.

At the Angelus on Sunday, Benedict had prayed for families of victims in Jamaica, the Bahamas, Haiti and Cuba.

Swiss customs seize tear gas lipsticks, lighters



GENEVA (AFP) - Nearly 500 canisters of illegal tear gas made in China and hidden inside innocent-looking lighters and lipsticks have been seized by Swiss customs, authorities said.

Michel Bachar, spokesman for the customs service, said officers at Geneva airport uncovered the canisters after they grew suspicious of a package from China supposedly containing electronics destined for a Swiss import-export company.

He said the tear gas was hidden inside pink and yellow-topped lighters and coloured metal-cased lipsticks.

"This is the first time in Switzerland that we find tear

gas hidden in lighters," Bachar said, holding up one of the see-through plastic casings filled with an orange liquid.

"Behind each of these lighters, there is a potential victim," he said, demonstrating how someone could offer to light a cigarette and spray an unsuspecting victim straight in the face.

He said the gas was being tested at a laboratory to determine the exact substance and how toxic it was.

Pepperspray is legal in Switzerland, but other forms of tear gas are not, and people caught carrying just one small canister face a fine of at least 300 Swiss francs (\$323, 248 euros).

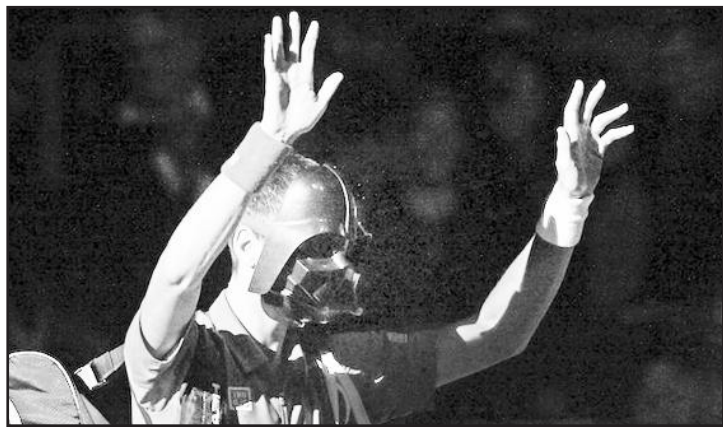
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SPORTS

Tennis: Djokovic crashes out as Murray eases through



PARIS (AFP) - Novak Djokovic crashed out of the Paris Masters in his first match, losing 0-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 to American journeyman Sam Querrey on Wednesday.

Third seed Andy Murray took full advantage of the situation at the last event of the ATP regular season before

next week's World Tour Finals, beating Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu 7-5, 6-3 to reach the third round.

The Scot was joined by Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer, who defeated compatriot Marcel Granollers 6-1, 6-3 and Argentine seventh seed Juan Martin del Potro, winner

of his last two indoor events, who put out Alejandro Falla 6-2, 6-2.

Three men stayed in the race for the two remaining spots at next week's season-ending event.

Serb Janko Tipsarevic overcame Igor Sijsling 6-4, 7-6 (7/0), Argentine Juan Monaco beat Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 And Spain's Nicolas Almagro defeated countryman Albert Ramos 7-6 (7/1), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3.

French 12th seed Richard Gasquet lost his chance to qualify for the year-end event as he went down to Kevin Anderson 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 6-1

Murray needed just over 90 minutes, winning with a dozen aces and 24 winners while breaking Mathieu four times.

Djokovic, who is assured of finishing as the top of the ATP world rankings at the end of the season, has not lost a match at such an early stage of a competition since Miami in March 2010.

His second round departure is a fresh blow for the tournament which has already had to do without star draw absentees Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic, who regardless of this defeat takes over the world number one spot from Federer on Monday, strode onto the court wearing a Darth Vader mask but found himself the victim of a Halloween horror show.

Querrey fired 18 aces in a battle lasting just over two hours, with the American winning his first career match against a top three player after nine defeats.

Cycling: Insurers ask Armstrong to repay bonus millions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Dallas insurance company SCA Promotions confirmed on Wednesday that it has sent Lance Armstrong a letter demanding the return of \$12 million in bonuses and warned that it might take legal action.

SCA attorney Jeff Dorough said the letter not only seeks back the bonus money but states that it might go to court for legal sanctions and penalties against the disgraced US cyclist, who was stripped of seven Tour de France titles for doping.

The potential legal action could come in connection with false testimony given by Armstrong during an arbitration hearing in 2005-2006.

Dorough confirmed that SCA was seeking \$7.5 million paid out to Armstrong after a 2006 arbitration proceeding, which included a \$5 million bonus as well as legal fees and interest.

"Mr. Armstrong is no longer the official winner of any Tour de France races and as a result it is inappropriate and improper for him to retain any bonus payments made by SCA," Dorough said.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) backed a US Anti-Doping Agency

(USADA) decision to effectively erase Armstrong's cycling record, including the seven Tour de France titles he won from 1999 to 2005, after a lengthy investigation.

USADA released a detailed account of the evidence it collected when it presented UCI with a 200-page report that put Armstrong at the heart of the biggest doping programme in the history of sport.

During Armstrong's era of dominance, US Postal Service team parent company Tailwind Sports took out a policy with SCA, paying a premium to cover bonuses paid to Armstrong for his Tour de France victories.

When SCA withheld a \$5 million bonus due after Armstrong's sixth Tour de France win in 2004 because of doping allegations circulating in Europe, Armstrong took them to court.

He won the case because the original contract between SCA and Tailwind Sports had no stipulations about doping.

Armstrong meanwhile posted his first Twitter message since stepping down as chairman of the Livestrong Foundation cancer charity he created in 1997, saying earlier this week that he was "Alive and well in Hawaii."

van Gaal

BERLIN (AFP) - Ex-Bayern Munich coach and current Holland boss Louis van Gaal has said the German giants' president Uli Hoenes was behind his sacking last year and insisted the pair can never work together again. Van Gaal was dismissed as Bayern's head coach in April 2011 after two years in charge with his side fourth in the Bundesliga. The 61-year-old Dutchman clearly still harbours a grudge having been sacked by Bayern despite taking the club to the Champions League final and winning the German domestic league double in the 2009/10 season. Van Gaal took over from Bert van Marwijk as Holland coach after the Dutch team finished June's Euro 2012 without a point, but the former Ajax and Barcelona manager said he would not rule out working with Bayern again one day.



Football Italia

MILAN (AFP) - Former Manchester United forward Paul Pogba struck in injury time to hand Juventus a 2-1 win over Bologna on Wednesday as the champions opened up a six-point gap on Napoli.

- Elsewhere, Inter Milan kept in touch with the leaders with a come-from-behind 3-2 win over Sampdoria while - Roma suffered a shock 3-2 defeat away to Parma and Lazio had to settle for a draw at home to Torino.

- Cagliari celebrated their biggest win of the season when they beat Siena 4-2 to consolidate their mid-table position, while second-from-bottom Chievo grabbed only their third win of the season with a 2-0 defeat of Pescara.

- In another mid-table battle Udinese drew 2-2 with Catania.

- AC Milan battled to a 2-2 draw away to Palermo on Tuesday.

- Juventus lead second-placed Inter by four points while Napoli dropped to third place on 22. Lazio are fourth on 19 while Fiorentina, who travel to Genoa today, are fifth on 15.

Football: Chelsea make formal complaint over referee 'abuse'

LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea announced on Wednesday that they have lodged a formal complaint with the Football Association over allegations referee Mark Clattenburg used "inappropriate language" towards John Mikel Obi.

Chelsea allege that Clattenburg abused Nigerian midfielder Mikel during the European champions' stormy 3-2 loss to Manchester United in the Premier League at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Chelsea added that the decision to inform the match delegate of Clattenburg's alleged remarks was "not a decision the club took lightly".

Reports in the British media have suggested that Chelsea believe the language used by Clattenburg towards Mikel was of a racial nature.

The club's initial complaint claimed Clattenburg had used inappropriate language towards two players, but the allegation regarding the other player -- thought to be Spanish midfielder Juan Mata -- has been dropped.

The FA announced on Monday that they have launched an investigation into the incident, while the Metropolitan Police said on Tuesday that they will also conduct an inquiry.

The game in question saw two Chelsea players sent off by Clattenburg, while United's 75th-minute winning goal was allowed to stand despite being scored from an offside position.

Clattenburg, 37, reportedly denies the allegations and has vowed to co-operate fully with any investigations.

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San Francisco Giants championship parade

-- SAN FRANCISCO, The city of San Francisco is celebrating its second World Series championship in three years.

The Giants swept the Detroit Tigers in four games, giving them their seventh title and second since moving to San Francisco from New York City in 1958.

Tens of thousands of people decked out in the team's holiday-appropriate colors stood 20 deep behind barriers along the city's main commercial street to watch their favorite players wave from atop individual convertibles.

The convertibles were intended to give fans better views along the parade route



that began at the foot of Market Street near San Francisco Bay and covered about 1 1/2 miles to Civic Center Plaza, the scene of a rally.

The city spent Monday cleaning up after a rowdy celebration Sunday night turned violent in some neighborhoods and police arrested three dozen people. Bonfires of trash were lit in several intersections, and a \$700,000 public transit bus was torched.

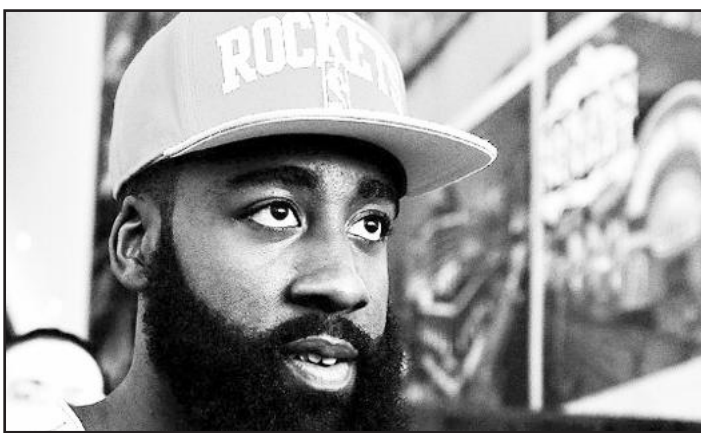
that began at the foot of Market Street near San Francisco Bay and covered about 1 1/2 miles to Civic Center Plaza, the scene of a rally.

Baseball: Soriano opts out of Yankees deal



NEW YORK (AFP) - Rafael Soriano, who saved 42 games in 46 chances this year as a relief pitcher for the New York Yankees, has opted out of his contract with the Major League Baseball club, the team said Wednesday. The 32-year-old Dominican right-hander was due \$14 million next year but will instead take a \$1.5 million buy-out as he seeks a new deal with another club. The Yankees are expected to make a qualifying offer of more than \$13 million to Soriano in order to receive some sort of compensation should he sign with another club. Soriano went 2-1 with a 2.26 earned-run average this past season as the Yankees won the American League East division title but were swept by Detroit in the league championship series. In 453 career appearances, Soriano is 15-24 with 132 saves and a 2.78 earned-run average with the Yankees, Seattle, Atlanta and Tampa Bay. He served as a replacement for injured Mariano Rivera, the 42-year-old Panamanian closing relief ace who tore knee ligaments in May but has not yet decided whether or not to attempt a comeback.

James Harden: Signs Max Deal With Rockets



-- Rockets general manager Daryl Morey officially introduced Harden on Monday, calling him a "foundational" player for the team's ultimate goal of returning to title contention. Harden, last season's Sixth Man of the Year, joined Houston in a stunning trade with Oklahoma City on Saturday night. Harden was finalizing a long-term contract with Houston on Monday. He says he'll be ready to play when the Rockets open the regular season. Harden agreed to a five-year, \$80 million contract with the Rockets on Wednesday as reported. James Harden was part of Team USA's gold medal team at the London Olympics and is one of the most skilled shooting guards in the NBA.

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NBA: Heat ring in season with a victory

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James received his long-awaited NBA championship ring on Tuesday, then he and the Miami Heat launched their bid for another with a season-opening 120-107 victory over the Boston Celtics.

While the Heat were busy signalling their intentions of maintaining their supremacy, the revamped Los Angeles Lakers failed to fire in a 99-91 loss to the injury-depleted Dallas Mavericks.

Defensive force Dwight Howard, who arrived as part of a four-team trade in August, had 19 points and 10 rebounds, but fouled out and was a dismal 3-of-14 from the foul line in his Lakers debut.

Steve Nash, a two-time Most Valuable Player also acquired in the off-season, finished with seven points and four assists.

Pau Gasol led the Lakers

with 23 points and Kobe Bryant, playing despite a sore foot that had kept him out of practice for nearly a week, added 22.

But they couldn't stop a Mavericks team missing German star Dirk Nowitzki, who is still recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

Darren Collison tallied 17 points, Elton Brand had eight points and 11 rebounds and O.J. Mayo added 12 points

for the Mavericks.

Miami were in celebratory mood, with players receiving their rings and fans cheering as they raised their title banner to the rafters.

The Celtics did their best to spoil the party, but the star triumvirate of James -- who missed much of the fourth quarter with leg cramps -- Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh along with newly acquired former Celtic Ray

Allen proved too much for Boston.

James scored 26 points with 10 rebounds. Wade added 29 points, Bosh scored 19 with 10 rebounds and Allen chipped in 19 against his former team.

Only one other game was on the opening night slate, with the Cleveland Cavaliers holding on for a 94-84 victory over the Washington Wizards.

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